Dies Issues Belated Report on Peace Now

Waits Until Movement Is Thoroughly Exposed by Press

By NATHAN ROBERTSON
PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—In a play for the headlines, the Dies Committee today issued a sensationally worded report on the Peace Now movement. It combined a little new material with a rehash of much old evidence already exposed by liberal newspapers.

(*PM first exposed the Peace Now movement last August.*)

The report itself indicated that until about a week ago the Committee had followed the Peace Now movement chiefly through the newspapers. After the movement had been thoroughly exposed by the press, the Committee 10 days ago used its subpena power to seize the organization's files.

Old Dies Stuff

Issuance of the report at this time looked like old Dies Committee tactics. Usually, just before a big smear report on a liberal organization, the Committee has paved the way with a sensational sounding report on some already discredited outfit. This time it is preparing for a blast against the CIO's Political Action Committee.

Most of the Dies Committee report could have been written long ago from the press exposures of the Peace Now movement. It emphasized the prominent part played in the organization by John Albert Collett, whose admission to the U. S. A. on a Nazi passport from Norway and subsequent arrest had already been exposed.

The Committee called the organization seditious, basing the charge on a letter which it said Peace Now had mailed out to 59 religious leaders during the latter part of last year urging them to influence their followers to "at once lay down arms and cease supporting the war."

Typical Smear

In a typical smear tactic, the Committee listed the names of all the religious leaders to whom the "lay down their arms" letter was sent, without indicating how many of them had rejected the proposal, or how any of them had reacted. It noted that the letter was sent to "all of the Cardinals of the Holy See who are resident in the U. S. A."

The Dies report said the Peace Now movement also "had the brazen audacity to go over the head of its own Government in an appeal for certain neutral governments to use their 'good offices' for facilitating negotiations between the warring nations." It cited a letter to Don Jan Francisco deCardenas, the Spanish Ambassador, last July, urging the Spanish Government to facilitate peace negotiations.

Peace League Denies 'Peace Now' Tie

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Dorothy Detzer, national secretary of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, took exception today to a reference in PM yesterday linking the League to the "Peace Now" forces. Miss Detzer said that the League had publicly disassociated itself from the activities of the Peace Now organization.